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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

Note verbale dated 26 August 1991 from the Permanent
Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to transmit to it herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Mr. Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, concerning the convening of a special meeting of the Rio Group on security and arms limitation (see annex).

* A/46/150.

ANNEX

Letter dated 23 July 1991 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Peru addressed to the Secretary-General

The end of the cold war, the 1987 Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, the conclusion of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), the American-Soviet Agreement on Destruction and Non-Production of Chemical Weapons, the progress made at Geneva towards the adoption of a Convention on the Universal Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the recent Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Charter of Paris of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe have created an international climate without precedent since the creation of the United Nations for strengthening international peace and security.

To this we must add President Bush's recent initiative to control transfers of weapons of mass destruction to the Middle East, President Mitterrand's disarmament plan, the Paris meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council to control sales of conventional weapons, and the recent agreement at the London summit meeting of the Group of Seven to establish a register of arms transfers and arms sales under United Nations auspices.

In view of these positive developments in the areas of disarmament, arms control and confidence-building and security measures, President Alberto Fujimori, on the occasion of the first Ibero-American Summit, said that the time had come to tackle the issue of Latin American disarmament both in theory and in practice. To this end, he proposed a regional disarmament policy based on arms limitation and on the use of the resources thus released to promote the region's economic and social development, in the framework of a new concept of defence aimed at preserving the stability of legitimately constituted Governments in the face of internal threats such as drug trafficking and terrorism which have assumed regional dimensions.

Accordingly, the Government of Peru has invited the Foreign Ministers of the Rio Group to attend a special meeting at Lima, at which agreement would be reached on jointly renouncing all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The meeting would also reach agreement on prohibiting the future purchase, transfer and manufacture of new generations of advanced conventional weapons systems, principally medium- and short-range ballistic missiles, fuel air explosives, laser-guided bombs and munitions, multiple launch rocket systems, anti-radar missiles and mini-conductors, nuclear-powered submarines and Stealth technologies.

The Lima meeting would also seek to reach agreement on security, confidence-building and transparency measures between the democracies of the Rio Group countries, such as increased contacts between military high

commands, reduced levels of troops and offensive weapons in border areas, reciprocal notification of military manoeuvres, invitations to observe military manoeuvres, visits to military installations and the creation of a centre for the registration of arms transfers and arms production in our countries.

I am sure you will agree that the Lima meeting will serve to strengthen security, development and democracy in Latin America and to project an image of the Rio Group's interest in and contribution to the process of peace and security that is under way in the world. I should therefore like to request that you convey the above information to the States Members of the United Nations.
